

Minute of Meeting held in the  
HITRANS Office, Inverness  
on Friday 22 June 2007 at  
10.30am.

PRESENT

Mr Duncan Macintyre (Chairman) – Argyll and Bute Council  
Mr John Laing (Vice-Chairman) – Highland Council  
Mr James Foubister – Orkney Islands Council  
Mr Graham Leadbitter – Moray Council  
Mr Donald Manford – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Miss Louise Smith  
Mr Donald MacNeill  
Mr Wilson Metcalfe

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Roy Pedersen – Highland Council (Substitute Member)  
Mr Mike Mitchell – Highland Council  
Mr Sam MacNaughton – Highland Council  
Ms Naomi Coleman – Orkney Islands Council  
Mr Sandy Ritchie – Moray Council  
Mr Gordon Holland – Moray Council  
Mr Blair Fletcher – Argyll and Bute Council  
Mr Frank Roach – Highland Rail Partnership  
Mr David Summers – HIPTF  
Mr Douglas Forson – The Scottish Executive  
Mr Dave Duthie – HITRANS  
Mr Howard Brindley – HITRANS  
Mr Ranald Robertson - HITRANS  
Mr Andrew Capes – HITRANS  
Mr Derek Mackay – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

APOLOGIES

Mr George Macintyre – Moray Council  
Mr Murdo Gray – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Mr Iain Duff - SCDI

Appointment of  
Chair

1

The Secretary to the Partnership chaired the meeting and called for nominations for the position of chair of HITRANS.

Mr John Lang, seconded by Mr Wilson Metcalfe moved the appointment of Mr Duncan Macintyre.

Mr Jim Foubister, seconded by Mr Graham Leadbitter, moved the appointment of Mr Donald Manford.

The candidates were given the opportunity of addressing Members who thereafter proceeded to vote as follows.

Mr Duncan Macintyre – 7  
Mr Donald Manford – 4

**The Secretary declared that Mr Duncan Macintyre had been elected as  
Chair of HITRANS**

Appointment of Vice-Chair 2 The Chair called for nominations for Vice-Chair of HITRANS.

Mr Duncan MacIntyre, seconded by Mr Donald MacNeill, moved the appointment of Mr John Laing.

There being no further nominations, the chair declared that Mr John Laing had been appointed as Vice-Chair of HITRANS.

### **MINUTES**

HITRANS 3 The Minute of Meeting of 22 June 2007 was **approved** with the following amendment.

At item 25 - the following be added as a recommendation;

“the Scottish Executive be asked to provide core support for Community Transport Associations”.

HITRANS 4 The Minute of Meeting of the Informal Meeting of 18 May 2007 was **noted** and it was agreed to add Mr Wilson Metcalfe to the list of Apologies.

### **Arising from consideration of this item it was agreed that**

- (1) **HITRANS would invite Highland and Argyll and Bute Councils to be represented at Member level on the Western Isles Tier 1 consultation groups.**
- (2) **the Scottish Executive would be asked to provide clarification in the ferry consultation process.**

### **CEARCALL NA GÀIDHLIG**

Cearcall na Gàidhlig 5 Mr Ranald Robertson submitted a Report in relation to the Cearcall na Gàidhlig tourism marketing initiative which was based around greater utilisation of the transport infrastructure of the Hebridean Islands and the West Highland mainland. The Report stated that a pilot project was being launched in June 2007 which would test the market for Cearcall na Gàidhlig and allow a basis for future expansion, and refinement and development of the concept and the launch would take place at Inverness Airport at 12 noon on 22 June 2007.

**It was agreed to note the Report.**

### **REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

Regional Transport Strategy 6 Mr Howard Brindley updated Members on progress with the Regional Transport Strategy. The Strategy Document had been submitted to the Minister and approval was awaited. Steer Davis Gleave would be assisting the Partnership in developing a monitoring framework and strategic environmental assessment.

**It was agreed to note the Report.**

### **FINANCE**

Capital Programme 2007/2008	7	Mr Ranald Robertson updated Members on delivery with the Partnerships 2007/08 Capital Programme. The Report detailed the full list of projects to be delivered through the Public Transport Network Programme. Mr Frank Roach updated members in relation to the Invernet 2 project.
<b>It was agreed:</b>		
<p>(1) to note the Report;</p> <p>(2) that the Programme Manager would continue to work with local authorities to ensure the programme was delivered in full;</p> <p>(3) the Programme Manager would Report to the Partnership on progress with the Capital Programme 2007/08; and</p> <p>(4) the Programme Manager would liaise with local authorities to develop a list of projects to take advantage of any additional funding or underspends.</p>		
Revenue Budget 2007/08	8	Mr Howard Brindley submitted a Report detailing the Revenue Budget 2007/08. The Report detailed the Partnerships running costs and work programme costs together with income from partner Councils and the Scottish Executive. The Scottish Executive would continue to match Council contribution pound for pound up to a maximum of £200,000. In addition, the Executive would continue to provide £100,000 towards the Travel Plan Project, a management fee from Capital Grants of £80,000 and a grant of £330,000 towards research and feasibility work to implement the Regional Transport Strategy.
<b>It was agreed to note the Report.</b>		
<b>TRAVEL PLANS</b>		
Travel Plan Progress Report	9	Mr Andrew Capes submitted a Report in relation to the Travel Plans Project. The Report stated that a progress Report in respect of the Travel Plan Strategy and Action Plan had been submitted to the Scottish Executive for the financial year 2006/07.
<b>It was agreed to note the Report.</b>		
<b>STAG</b>		
Economic Case for Fixed Links and Improving Ferry Services	10	Mr Dave Duthie informed Members that Transport Scotland were currently reviewing the STAG process and representations in relation to the current systems appropriateness for the Highlands and Islands had been submitted on behalf of the partnership. Members were circulated with copies of the final Report by Reference Economic Consultants into the economic impacts of fixed links and enhanced ferry services in the Highlands and Islands.
<b>It was agreed to note the Report.</b>		
Programme of Meetings	11	<p>Members were informed that the remaining HITRANS meetings for 2007 would be as follows;</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007 5<sup>th</sup> October 2007 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007.</p>
Each Meeting would start at 9.30am and would be preceded by a Briefing/Dinner for Members on the Thursday night.		
<b>It was agreed to note the report.</b>		

- 12 Mr Donald Manford raised the recent withdrawal of Highland Airways Inverness – Benbecula and Stornoway – Inverness flights.

**The Chairman agreed to make representations to the Minister in relation to the benefits that PSOs would bring to the Highlands and Islands Air Network.**

The Chairman read a letter from Mrs Roma Hossack, former Member for Moray Council who was ill. Mrs Hossack thanked Members to the flowers she had received and wished HITRANS all the best for the future.

The Chairman informed Members that he had been invited to meet with the First Minister and Cabinet Secretaries on 26 June 2007.